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NORTHERN ALBERTA

ITS CLIMATE AND RESOURCES

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المجلس الأعلى للدراسات والبحوث

NORTHERN ALBERTA, ITS CLIMATE AND RESOURCES.

Those who contemplate the selection of a new home are generally anxious to know something of the climate and resources of the country to which their attention is directed, and with that object in view, the following is commended as being useful information to intending emigrants :

During the winter months, although the thermometer registers as low as 30° below zero, occasionally, in Alberta, still the cold is not severely felt on account of the extreme dryness of the atmosphere, and the fact that when the temperature is very low it is perfectly calm, severe blizzards being unknown.

About the 10th of April the snow has disappeared, and in a few days the ground is ready to seed, the days being warm and bright, with cool nights.

About the 10th of May growth commences vigorously and continues with great rapidity, accelerated as it is in June and July by copious showers, which while supplying moisture sufficient for vegetation is not so excessive as to cause the roads to be muddy or unpleasant for more than a few hours, the heat of the ever-present sunshine soon drying up the moisture and causing a growth which must be seen to be fully realized.

Haying commences about the middle of July, and harvest about the end of August.

On the high lands frost is not experienced until the middle of September, while in the valleys or river flats it may be expected a week or two earlier, but its effects are not so disastrous to vegetation as has been represented, unless in cases where seeding has been delayed beyond the proper time.

During May there is no rain, the snow having left sufficient moisture in the ground for agricultural purposes ; the months of June and July are always showery, causing an almost tropical growth of vegetation ; and August, September and October are invariably dry months, giving the farmer every opportunity to accomplish his fall-ploughing and other work in comfort.

About the middle of November flurries of snow may be expected, but sleighing is seldom really good until the end of December.

The winter months are most enjoyable, and during the day the sun shines brightly, enabling the farmer to cut his ricks and fire wood without being muffled up inconveniently.

The soil is generally a deep black loam, from two to three feet in depth, with a subsoil of marly clay, which in some places rises near the surface, which cannot be excelled as regards fertility or ease in working. Many crops of wheat have been threshed last season of 40 and 45 bushels to the acre, oats of, from 75 to 100 bushels per acre, and barley of 50 to 70 bushels.

Ordinary cultivation will ensure from 400 to 500 bushels of potatoes to the acre, while roots of every description can be raised to perfection, the only detriment being the vigorous growth of weeds which if not kept in subjection will soon ruin the crop.

Alberta has natural advantages to offer to the intending emigrant possessed by few countries in the world and excelled by none; here the settler has plenty of timber of a size sufficiently large to build houses or stables, with any quantity of dry wood for fuel, or if he prefers to burn coal he can obtain it on the banks of the rivers and creeks for the digging; water of a good quality may be had anywhere at a depth of from twelve to thirty feet, and surface water can be found in many places by digging three or four feet, quite free from alkali; then natural meadows exist everywhere in which grass may be cut at the rate of two to four tons per acre, and on the high lands the wild pea vine and vetch afford the most nutritious food for horses and cattle, growing as it does to the height of from three to four feet.

In the month of June the prairies are scented with the sweet odour of the wild strawberry blossom, and later in the season strawberries may be gathered by the pailful almost anywhere; the wild raspberry, saskatoon, gooseberry, black currant and cranberry succeed one another in rapid succession as the summer advances, affording a grateful addition to the settler's bill of fare, as easily obtained as it is enjoyable.

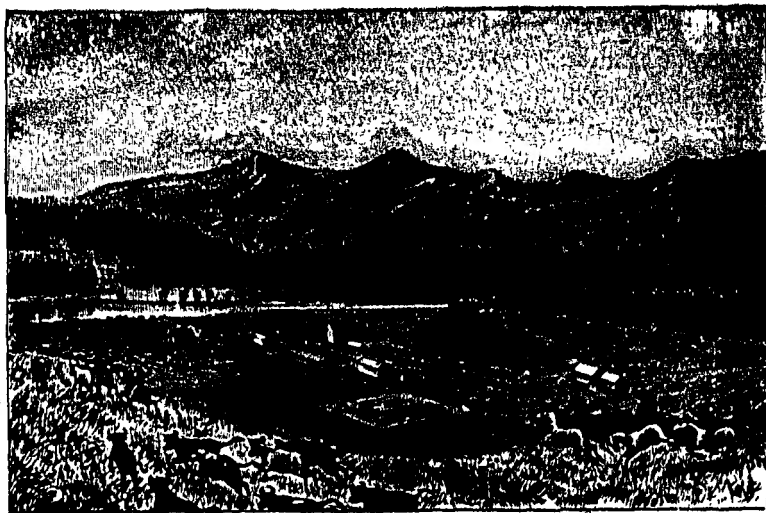
The numerous little lakes in Alberta are tenanted by thousands of wild fowl, ducks of every variety, as well as waveys and wild geese, while the prairies are the home of innumerable partridges, prairie chicken and rabbits.

Cattle and horses roam over the prairie during the winter without shelter, and frequently remain away from home for weeks, picking their own living during fine weather when the snow is light, and very few farmers consider it necessary to provide stabling for any animals beyond those which are required to work.

The only taxation to which the people of Alberta are subjected is the payment of a school tax when the population is sufficient to render the establishment of schools necessary, and they themselves control the expenditure on account of schools through the trustees whom they elect annually.

Throughout the Canadian North-west law and order reign supreme, rowdyism is not tolerated, and crime, wherever it appears, never fails to meet with sure and severe punishment, as the Canadian Government maintains a large force of Mounted Police, well horsed and equipped, members of which patrol the country in every direction always prepared to vindicate the supremacy of the law by force of arms if necessary.

During the past season thousands of Americans have settled in the North-west of Canada; Washington, Idaho, Dakota, Minnesota and the Eastern States are furnishing a steady stream of emigration which promises in the near future to fully occupy this country, vast and limitless as it appears to be at present.



HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.

All even numbered sections of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the North west Territories, excepting 8 and 20, which have not been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers or other purposes, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over eighteen years of age, to the extent of one quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

ENTRY.

Entry may be made personally at the local land office in which the land to be taken is situate, or if the homesteader desires he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, or the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, receive authority for some one to make the entry for him. A fee of \$10 is charged for an ordinary homestead entry; but for lands which have been occupied an additional fee of \$10 is chargeable to meet inspection and cancellation expenses.

HOMESTEAD DUTIES.

Under the present law homestead duties may be performed in three ways, and on making application for entry the settler must declare under which of the following conditions he elects to hold his land:

1. 'Three years' cultivation and residence, during which the settler may not be absent for more than six months in any one year without forfeiting the entry.

2. Residence for two years and nine months anywhere within two miles of the homestead quarter-section, and afterwards actual residence in a habitable house upon the homestead for three months at any time prior to application for patent. Under this system 10 acres must be broken the first year after entry; 15 additional in the second, and 15 in the third year; 10 acres to be in crop the second year, and 25 acres the third year.

3. 'The five years' system under which a settler may reside anywhere for the first two years, (but must perfect his entry by com-

managing cultivation within six months after the date thereof breaking five acres the first year, cropping these five acres and breaking ten acres additional the second year and also building a habitable house before the end of the second year. The settler must commence actual residence on the homestead at the expiration of two years from date of entry, and thereafter reside upon and cultivate his homestead for at least six months in each of the three next succeeding years.

APPLICATION FOR PATENT

may be made before the local agent, or any homestead inspector. Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands of his intention to do so. When, for convenience of the settler, application for patent is made before a homestead inspector, a fee of \$5 is chargeable.

A SECOND HOMESTEAD

may be taken by any one who on the second day of June, 1880, had received a homestead patent or a certificate of recommendation countersigned by the Commissioner of Dominion Lands upon application for patent made by him, or who had earned title to his first homestead on, or prior to, that date.

INFORMATION.

Newly arrived immigrants will receive at any Dominion Lands Office in Manitoba or the North-west Territories information as to the lands that are open for entry, and from the officers in charge, free of expense, advice and assistance in securing lands to suit them; and full information respecting the land, timber, coal and mineral laws, and copies of these Regulations, as well as those respecting Dominion Lands in the Railway Belt in British Columbia, may be obtained upon application to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa; the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, Manitoba; or to any of the Dominion Lands Agents in Manitoba or the North-west Territories.

A. M. BURGESS,

Deputy Minister of the Interior.